Patent Literature 2 discloses a partial hair dyeing tool, in which a hair strand is sandwiched between: a first sheet including a liquid-absorbent sheet for impregnation with a dyeing agent or a bleaching agent, and a liquid-impermeable sheet serving as a cover material and having an adhesive layer on the surface; and a second sheet consisting of a sheet having the same structure as the first sheet, or consisting only of a liquid-impermeable sheet. With this partial hair dyeing tool, the hair is dyed by fixing the first and second sheets in tight contact with one another, and then peeling the sheets apart after hair dyeing is finished.

[0005]

Patent Literature 3 discloses a hair dyeing tool wherein microcapsules in which a hair dye liquid is sealed are provided on a base sheet material, and, by breaking the microcapsules, the base sheet material is impregnated with the dye, to thereby allow dyeing of hair. According to Patent Literature 3, it is only necessary to fold the base sheet material and sandwich a hair strand therebetween, and also, the dye liquid permeates into the base sheet material and thus does not seep out to the fingertips, thus preventing soiling of the fingers, clothes, etc. during dyeing.

[0006]

Patent Literature 4 discloses a hair treatment applicator system including an absorbent substrate having a specific pore radius, and a highly viscous hair treatment composition. In the disclosed method for applying the hair treatment composition: a hair strand is held by the absorbent substrate in a state where the absorbent substrate is folded along one of its dimensions, so that the inner surface can be wrapped around the hair strand while the user holds the hair treatment application system between the thumb and the index finger; and, with the user holding the hair strand with the other hand, the hair treatment composition is applied by swiping the hair treatment applicator system along the entire length of the hair strand.

[0007]

Patent Literature 5 discloses a hand-held applicator including: a flat, pouch-like container containing content, such as a hair coloring agent or a hair bleaching agent; an

2a of the packaging 2, is torn in the tearing direction starting from the tab portion 9 provided at one end of the sheet 12. Stated differently, tearing of the sheet 12 forming the first surface 2a of the packaging 2 creates: a gripping piece 30 constituted by the first surface 2a of the packaging 2; and a main body portion 40 constituted by the second surface 2b of the packaging 2 and portions of the first surface 2a other than the gripping piece 30. In the hair treatment tool 1 illustrated in Fig. 10, the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 are created, with the border being a fold line where the liquid-impermeable sheet 3 is folded in two in the packaging 2; the section where the fold line is located corresponds to a connecting portion 85 where the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 are connected. As described above, by tearing the packaging 2, the hair treatment tool 1 is rendered in a usable state (referred to hereinafter also as "opened state").

[0045]

In the hair treatment tool 1 of the present embodiment, the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 are formed by a single continuous liquid-impermeable sheet 3, but the main body portion 40 only needs to be connected at one end of the gripping piece 30; for example, the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 do not have to be formed by a single continuous sheet, but the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 may be connected by a joined region provided to one end of the gripping piece 30. In cases where the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 of the hair treatment tool 1 are connected by a joined region, the hair treatment tool 1 is separated into the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40, with the joined region serving as the border.

In a planar view of the packaging 2 before opening, the hair treatment tool 1 of the present embodiment includes short sides parallel to one another, and long sides parallel to one another (see Fig. 3(b)). In the packaging 2 before opening, the short sides are parallel to the lateral direction X, and the long sides are parallel to the longitudinal direction Y. In the present embodiment, the lateral direction X is parallel to the tearing direction in which the first surface 2a (liquid-impermeable sheet 3) is torn so as to render the hair treatment tool 1 in an opened state to create the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40.

piece 30 and the main body portion 40 are different from one another. Stated differently, the dimensions of the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 are asymmetric, which makes the tool easy to hold (easy to pinch with the hand), thereby allowing the task of applying the hair cosmetic to the hair, as described further below, to be performed easily. Further, in the hair treatment tool 1, the fiber structure member 5 is located on the respective inner surfaces of the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40, and thus, the hair cosmetic can be applied easily, and also, the tool can be used favorably, particularly in cases of applying the hair cosmetic to the hair while sandwiching the hair between the packaging. Furthermore, since the hair treatment tool 1 is rendered in a usable state (opened state) by being torn so as to create the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40, no unnecessary parts (waste), such as peeled sheets, will arise upon use. Thus, the hair treatment tool 1 illustrated in Fig. 3 is easy to use.

[0051]

Preferably, a portion, or the entirety, of the section of the fiber structure member 5 located on the gripping piece 30 is fixed to the inner surface 31 of the gripping piece 30. When the packaging 2 is torn, the fiber structure member 5 is exposed together with the inner surfaces 31 of the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40; fixing a portion of the fiber structure member 5 to the inner surface of the gripping piece 30 facilitates the application task, without causing the fiber structure member 5 to fall off, when applying the hair cosmetic to the hair, such as the hair on one's head, with the hair treatment tool 1 whose packaging 2 has been opened, as described further below. Also, the gripping piece 30 can support the fiber structure member 5 more easily when sandwiching the hair between the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40, and handleability upon applying the hair cosmetic to the hair is further improved.

[0052]

From the same viewpoint, it is preferable that a portion, or the entirety, of the section of the fiber structure member 5 located on the main body portion 40 is fixed to the inner surface 31 of the main body portion 40. Fixing a portion of the fiber structure member 5 to the inner surface of the main body portion 40 facilitates application, without causing the fiber structure member 5 to fall off, when applying the hair cosmetic to the

portion 40 and the portion located on the gripping piece 30 have the same area" means that the area S5 of the portion located on the gripping piece 30 is from 80 to 120%, more preferably from 90 to 110%, the area S6 of the portion located on the main body portion 40.

[0058]

The fiber structure member 5 retains the hair cosmetic, and for the retention method, any discretionary method can be employed for retaining the hair cosmetic with the fiber structure member 5, depending on the properties of the hair cosmetic. For example, in cases where the hair cosmetic is a liquid, the fiber structure member 5 can retain the hair cosmetic by impregnating the fiber structure member 5 with the hair cosmetic.

[0059]

As will be described below, the hair treatment tool 1 illustrated in Fig. 3 can apply the hair cosmetic to the hair by sandwiching the hair on one's head (referred to hereinafter also as "hair") between the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40. More specifically, in the present embodiment, treatment with the hair treatment tool 1 can be performed by: sandwiching the hair between the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40, to bring the fiber structure member 5, which is supported by the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40, into contact with the hair; and transferring the hair cosmetic retained by the fiber structure member 5 onto the hair. As described above, since the hair can be treated by the hair cosmetic simply by being sandwiched between the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40—more specifically, between the fiber structure member 5—the operation of performing treatment with the hair treatment tool 1 illustrated in Fig. 3 is extremely easy. Further, by sliding the hair treatment tool 1 in the longitudinal direction Y with the hair sandwiched therebetween, the hair cosmetic can be applied uniformly to the surface of the hair. Furthermore, when performing treatment with the hair treatment tool 1, the hair cosmetic can be prevented from contacting the handler's skin, such as the fingers.

[0060]

From the viewpoint of further facilitating the handler's perception of the contact

have different depths. For example, the depth of the pocket portion 22 on the lower side when the hair treatment tool 1 is sandwiching the hair may be greater than the depth of the pocket portion 22 on the upper side.

[0079]

Figs. 11 and 12 illustrate a method for manufacturing a hair treatment tool 1 according to the present embodiment. In this method for manufacturing a hair treatment tool 1, a fiber structure member 5 is placed on the inner surface 31 of a liquid-impermeable sheet 3 (Fig. 11(A)), and then, the fiber structure member 5 is fixed to the inner surface 31 on the gripping piece 30 side, or on the inner surface 31 of the gripping piece 30 and the main body portion 40 (Fig. 11(A)). Then, the liquid-impermeable sheet 3 is folded up in two so that the fiber structure member 5 is arranged inside the liquid-impermeable sheet 3 (Fig. 11(C)). Next, to the folded liquid-impermeable sheet 3, fixing seal portions 6 parallel to the tearing direction are formed on both sides in the direction Y intersecting with the tearing direction (lateral direction X) (Fig. 12(A)). Then, to the liquid-impermeable sheet 3 provided with the fixing seal portions 6, an opening seal portion 7 is formed on the starting end side of the tearing direction (Fig. 12(B)), to obtain the hair treatment tool 1. The hair cosmetic is retained by the retaining element before forming the opening seal portion 7.

As for methods for fixing the fiber structure member 5 to the liquid-impermeable sheet 3 and methods for forming the fixing seal portions 6 and the opening seal portion 7 in the liquid-impermeable sheet 3, it is possible to employ various known means, such as adhesive application methods, and fusion-bonding/fixing methods such as heat sealing, ultrasonic sealing, high-frequency sealing, or the like.

[0080]

It is preferable to make the fiber structure member 5 retain the hair cosmetic after the fiber structure member is fixed to the inner surface 31 of the liquid-impermeable sheet 3. The hair cosmetic usable herein may be in the form of a liquid, viscous material (cream), or powder. An example of a method for making the fiber structure member 5 retain the hair cosmetic is to first fix the fiber structure member 5, such as a nonwoven fabric, onto the inner surface 31 of the liquid-impermeable sheet 3, and then impregnate